

Washington, DC -- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez issued the following statement on the House of Representatives' passage of comprehensive energy legislation, H.R. 6, by a vote of 235 to 181. With gas prices in California climbing from an average of \$1.44 in 2001 to \$3.25 today, California should benefit from the New Direction Congress' landmark energy legislation. The legislation's Renewable Energy Standard should bring almost 20,000 new "green" jobs to the state, and pave the way for \$1.35 billion in consumer energy savings.

"With gas prices in my district topping three dollars a gallon, transportation costs for families are spiraling out of control, and our continued dependence on foreign oil from nations as volatile as the oil they sell us, the New Direction Congress has responded by enacting a real energy policy." Congresswoman Linda Sánchez said. "I'm proud to vote for legislation that will lower our energy costs and begin to address global warming."

The bill requires automakers to raise corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFE) for cars and light trucks to 35 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2020. Currently, automakers must meet a 27.5 mpg standard for cars and 22.5 mpg for light trucks. The bill also requires refineries to include alternative fuels in gasoline, which should help lower fuel costs.

"In contrast to years of Republican-backed energy bills that were little more than subsidy packages for Big Oil, this legislation will help us become more energy independent, more environmentally friendly, and will help us regain our position as a world leader in innovative technologies," Rep. Sánchez said. "We're working to produce vehicles that get better gas mileage, and to create and promote the use of alternative fuel sources in cars, homes and factories."